

## REVIVAL HINDERING ISSUES

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*"And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Matt. 16:18 .

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* II Chron. 7:14.

The great power of the church, against even the great power of Satan and his hell, through the ages has emerged triumphant. God is able, since it is His church, to empower victory for the righteous, and defeat for all who are evil. God's church is the greatest organism of all, mentioned 118 times in the New Testament. Our church faces government pressure from without and member failure within. Within our own ranks what are the things that hinder revival in these critical end times. **(1). Family Failures:** *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."* Gen. 18:19. God has great plans for your family as He did for Abraham's. How are you all enduring the problems of family living today? It certainly is not easy to keep the things that matter in the forefront and refuse the temptations that beckon us away from victory. Dad , you must lead in all things, and mom, follow with love as you set the pace for your growing family. Keep your family structure right, and happy in the eyes of God who expects much of you. Your family is the only thing you can take to heaven with you. Weak vacillating families will ruin any church. **(2). Moral Decay:** *"Keep thyself pure."* I Tim. 5:22. Our Christian homes should be a clear

pattern of incorruptness. Often the world expects more of church members than we do of ourselves. If your family does not practice what it preaches, then you drain off much of the power offered your church. TV has become the greatest tool of Satan to thwart the church and ruin its families. I am telling you nothing new but asking what are you doing about it. If Jesus would not sit by you and watch and listen to your favorite trash, then how can you and your family be right with God. Old time saints in my early days saw great local revivals as they knelt at the altar. Can you not push a remote button and turn off every evil that is seeking to control your family? The entertainment media has slaughtered family purity, and now mocks the church as "radical" when we take stands against evil. **(3). Slipping Integrity:** *"Righteousness exaulteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."* Prov. 14:34. The curse of weakness in righteous living, has spread from the reveling world to the sacred halls of the church. In the past few years a number of popular TV charismatic preachers have had to step down in shame. The Catholic church has been assaulted by the antics of child abusing priests, and show little concern from the Pope down. If you can't trust a man of God, who can you trust? Our pastors, deacons, trustees, teachers, and every member, should sparkle with Christ honoring integrity in every area. We should not just preach the "thou shalt nots" but be consistent examples of obedience to the clear commands of God. **(4). Faltering Standards:** *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* Prov. 14:12. Church members are commanded not to conform in Rom. 12:2 but conformity is everywhere. In Jer. 7:23 God speaks *"saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."* How can you continue any longer failing to keep the clear commands of God's rule book, the Bible?

Shame on weak, disobedient, church members, who pick a church not for its strong standards, but rather weak control, and preaching to members. If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything. Great and tragic is the fall of millions of today's church members. Membership is shrinking in every church group according to all the statistics.. **(5). Worldly Music:** *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."* Psa. 19:14. No revival will ever result from the rape of Christ honoring music, by today's worldly, compromising musicians, and their beat music. They dress like the world, sound like the world, and encourage a cheap brand of Christianity upon stirred up, entertained, followers of the church. Shame on Christian leaders who for years used beautiful inspiring Christian music. All they have left is cheap, counterfeit entertainment, from which heart felt life changing decisions will never be made. With drums and screaming guitars they transfer the worship owed to Christ, to concert hopping, money hungry entertainers who never left the world far enough behind. No flashing screen can ever equal the old hymnbooks, and the soul stirring, scripturally accurate, songs of the writers of the past. We need to stop cheapening the things of God with the beat and sounds of the devil. True believers need to take a stand and hold the line until Jesus comes. **(6). Fleeting Compassion:** *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit."* John 15:16a. God chose us in His divine purpose to be soul winners. Very few believers have taken this command seriously, and strive daily to carry out the command of Christ. We are surrounded by lost souls on every side, and do little about it. If you have never won a soul you have blood on your hands. We all know what is missing. *"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come*

*again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."* Psm. 126:5&6. Witnessing to the lost should be our daily priority. Remember, God saved us, to win others, and glorify His name, as membership is built in the Kingdom of God.. How many have you won, pulling them from the flames of Hell? **(7). Earthly Rat Race:** *"Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."* Dan. 12:4b. Certainly, many of us are too engaged in today's earthly "rat race." The many earthly demands around us eclipse heavenly values, and at the judgment seat someday we will know we made ourselves too busy. We make time for TV, sports, recreation, hobbies, jobs and many other things. Missing services of your church sabotages its' work in these days. We avoid some of the bad stuff, but most are still too busy in that which we accept to be important. The dear old hymn writer wrote, "Take Time To Be Holy." How much time do you spend on your daily devotions and quiet time with God? **(8). Blighted Vision:** *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Prov. 29:18a. I think we seem to accept the status quo, instead of seeing the urgency of these last days. The spirit of discouragement is epidemic, and when it comes to soul winning our sight is far from 20/20. We need to polish our spiritual lenses and focus in on lost souls around us. We need to be *"redeeming the time because the days are evil."* Eph. 5:16 We know the ending because we have read the book, the Bible. *"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."* Dan. 12:2&3. Let's all go for personal revival, and conquer some more ground for the Lord in these last days. We can have revival now in our church and personal lives. Let's accept our God given responsibility, and be revived in our quest for revival.